



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Substance Use Response Group (SURG)

May 7, 2024

11:00 am

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

Chair Kerns

1. Call to Order and Roll Call to Establish Quorum Cont.

Member	SURG Role	Committee Role
Shayla Holmes	Rural Human Services (Lyon County)	Vice Chair
Dr. Terry Kerns	Attorney General Appointee	Chair
Nancy Lindler	SUD Treatment Provider	Member
Christine Payson	Sheriffs' & Chiefs' Assoc.	Member

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment

- Public comment will be received via Zoom by raising your hand or unmuting yourself when asked for public comment. Public comment shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person (this is a period devoted to comments by the general public, if any, and discussion of those comments). No action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken pursuant to NRS 241.020.
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**3. REVIEW AND APPROVE
MINUTES FROM MARCH 25, 2024
RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING**

Chair Kerns

4. PRESENTATION ON ORGAN DONATION RELATIVE TO THE NARCOTIC EPIDEMIC

Angela Borrer, LPN, CPTC
Supervisor of Organ Services
Nevada Donor Network

Disclosures

- *I have no disclosures*

Introduction

The opioid epidemic we are discussing has come to the forefront of one of the leading causes in death to date. This has taken its toll on many families, throwing them into a world where guilt and loss become their new normal.

Nevada Donor Network is one of 55 OPO's across the country that strive to give these families a glimpse of hope and light during the darkest of times. Our mission to save and heal lives is rooted to the core of everything we do.

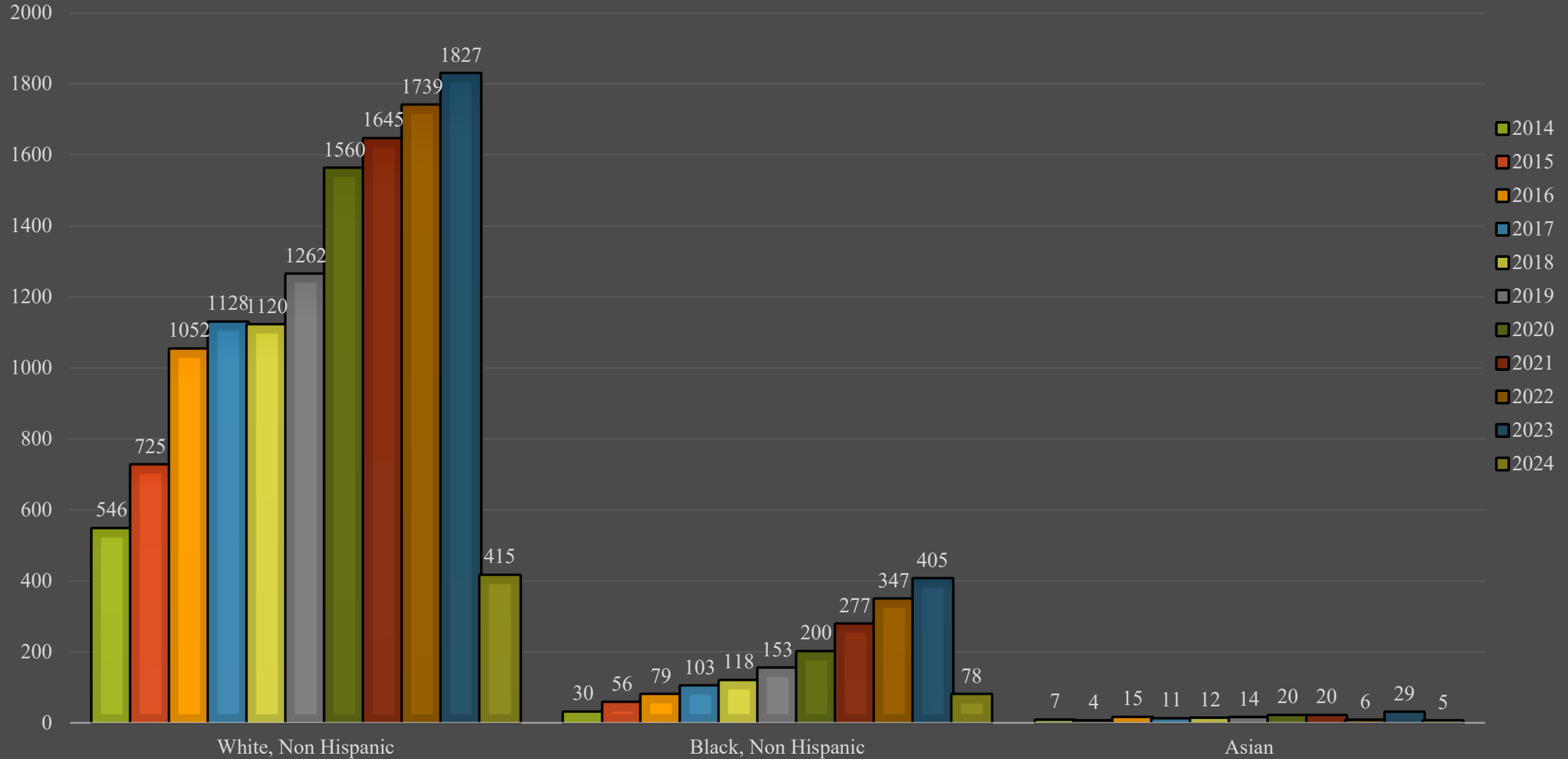
Issues

- *Fentanyl and/or narcotic epidemic leading to unintentional overdose*
- *Effect of Fentanyl and/or narcotics on the organ system*
- *Life saving and life altering effects*

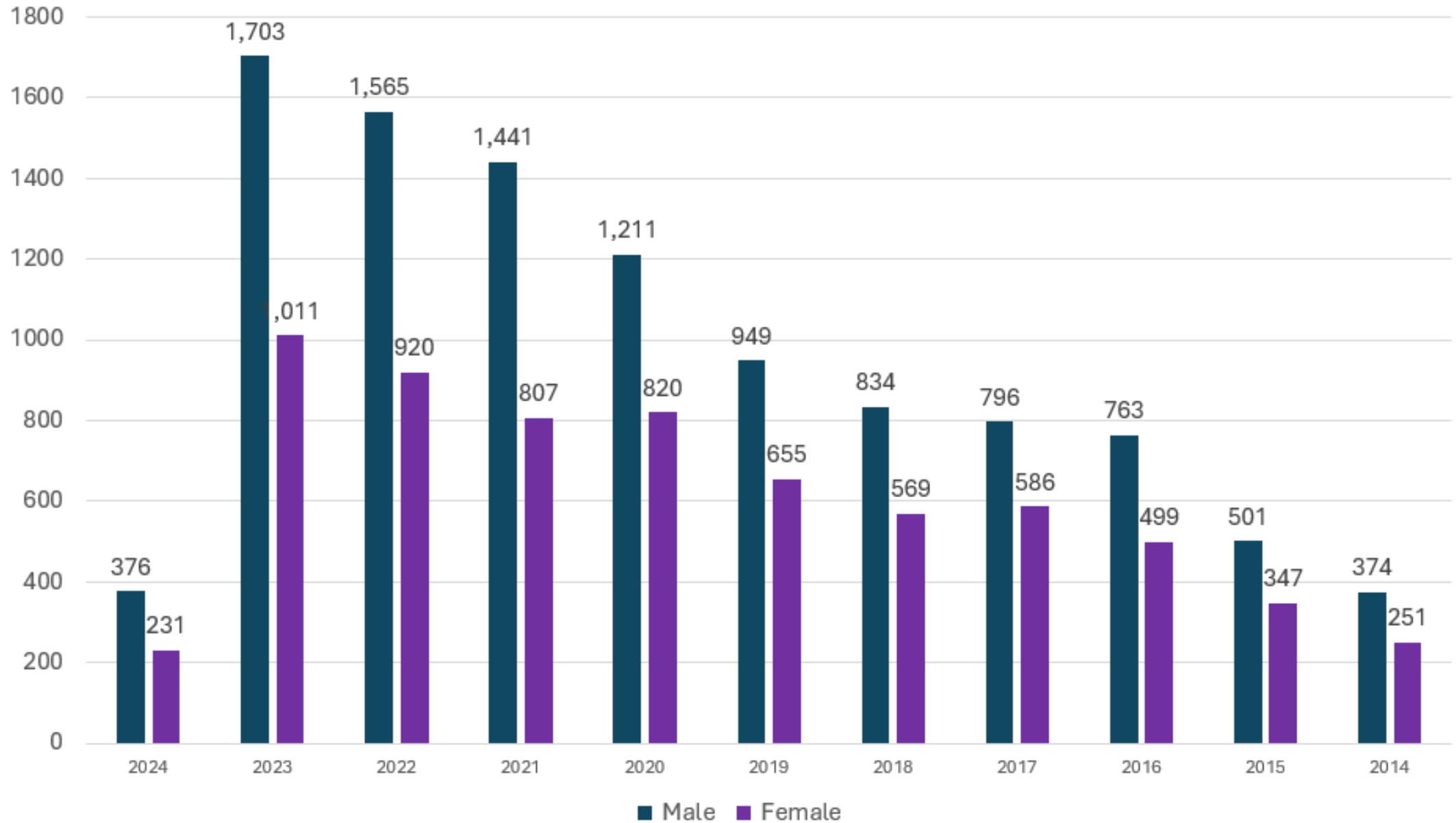
Special Populations

- *Veterans, elderly persons and youth*
- *Incarcerated individuals*
- *Native American Youth and African American Men*
- *White, non-Hispanic men*

Narcotic Related Deaths by Population



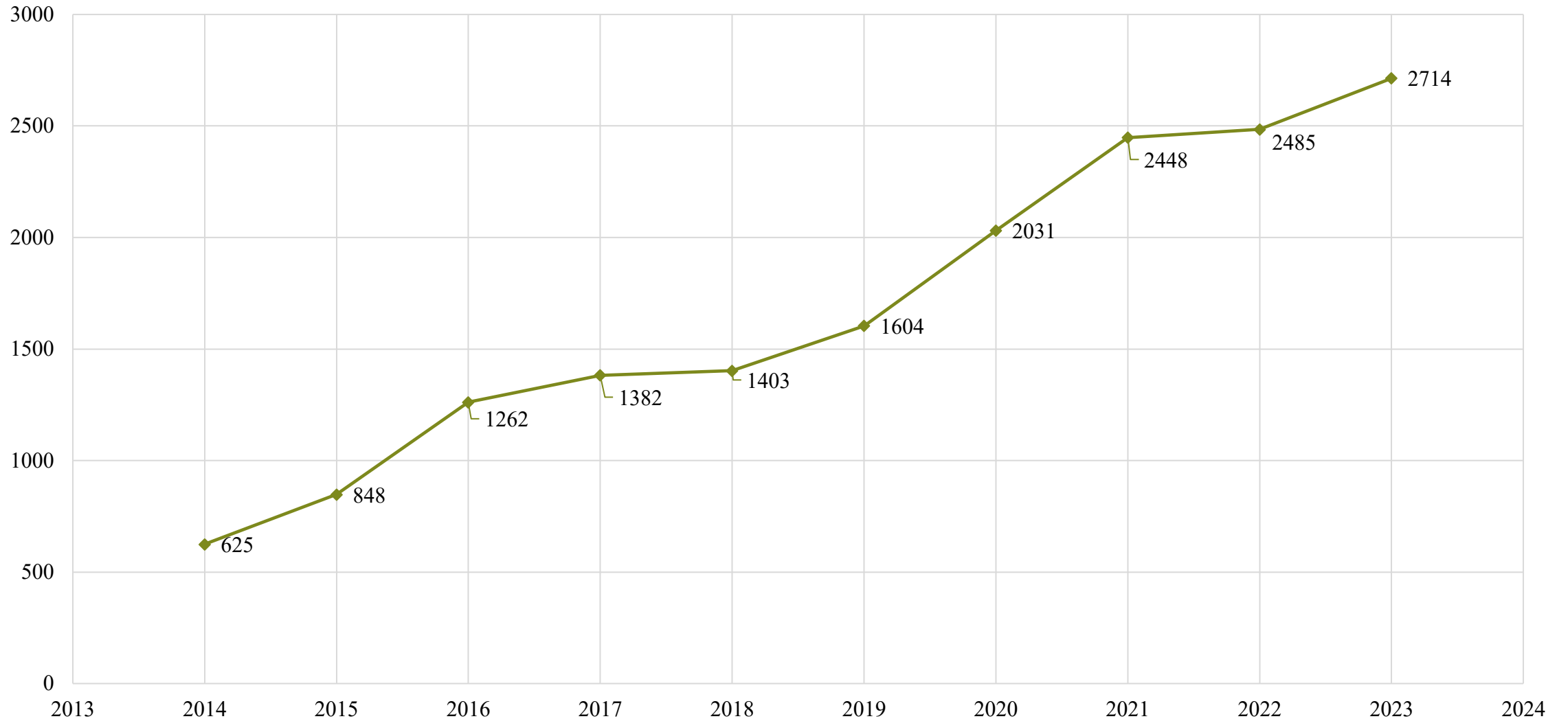
Death by Drug Intoxication Relative to Gender



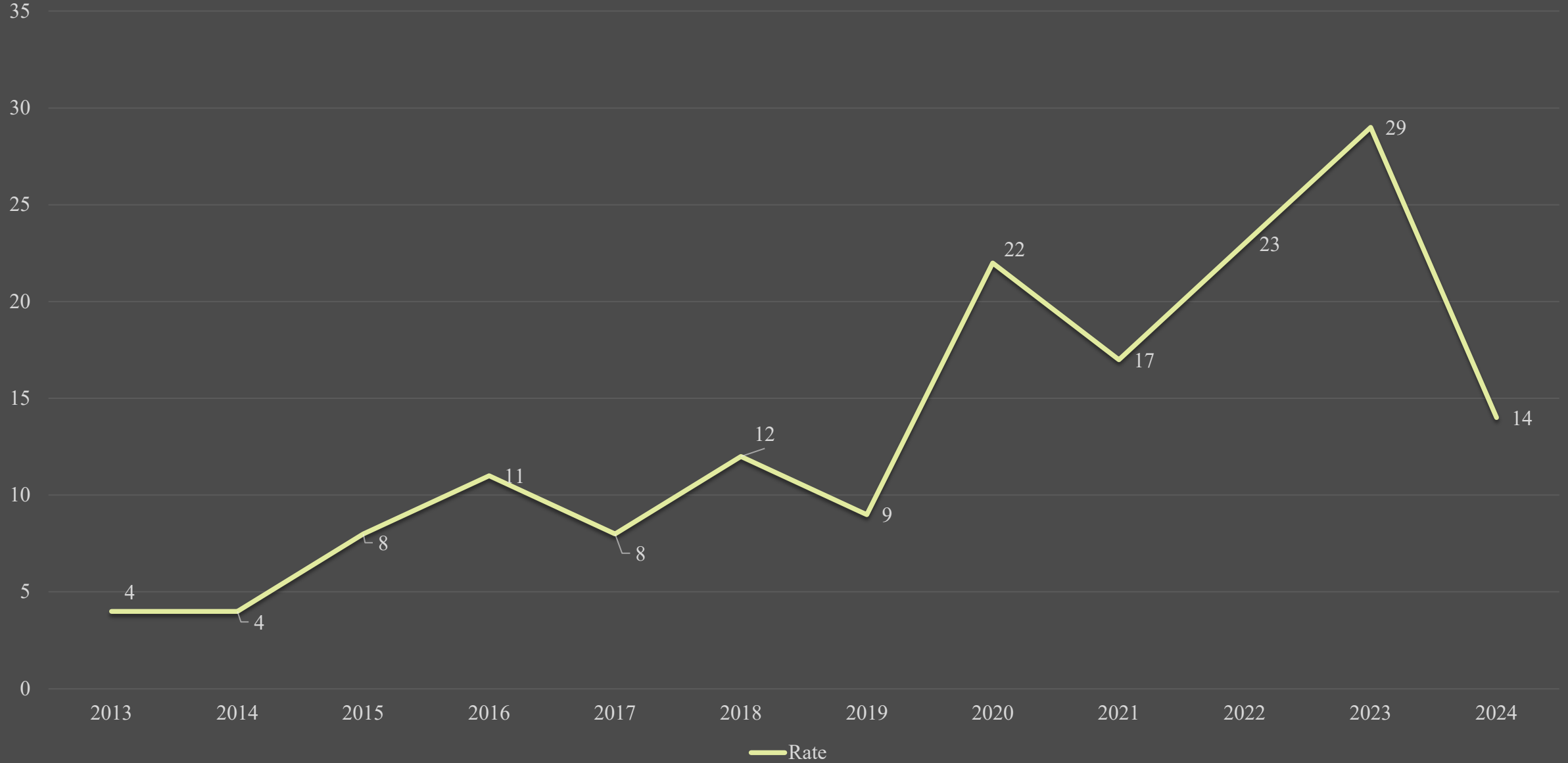
Donation Secondary to Drug Intoxication by Age

		2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Drug Intoxication	All Ages	607	2,714	2,485	2,248	2,031	1,604	1,403	1,382	1,262	848	625
	< 1 Year	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0
	1-5 Years	1	8	4	2	2	3	1	1	1	4	1
	6-10 Years	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
	11-17 Years	8	27	49	34	24	19	15	11	16	17	14
	18-34 Years	220	1,007	1,022	972	969	809	763	772	762	533	372
	35-49 Years	248	1,136	976	874	750	548	495	451	387	237	182
	50-64 Years	117	498	410	351	275	220	121	138	91	54	55

ORGAN DONORS FROM DRUG INTOXICATION



Nevada Organ Donors by Drug Intoxication



Effects on Organ Systems

- Depending on the drug, each has considerable consequences leading to slight or complete dysfunction in the organ system. Some are irreversible leading to non utilization of the consented life saving gift.
- Organ suitability is evaluated based on the cause, circumstance and mechanism of death while also taking into consideration patients health history.
- Long term drug use can cause serious issues such as cardiomyopathy, vegetation on the heart, arrhythmias, oxygen deprivation, cirrhosis and worse, complete organ failure.

Gaps

- *Treatment for a diverse population – Most groups focus on one population, while it is evident that this epidemic is spread throughout all populations.*

Recommendation(s)

- *We would recommend additional funding and resources be considered for those who are left behind by those who succumb to this epidemic.*
 - *Examples include grief counseling, treatment facilities, family support groups and contributions to local charities supporting survivors to help them find their voice.*
- *Nevada Donor Network's After Care program focuses on the loved ones of Organ, Eye and Tissue donation by providing said resources, support groups and outreach for a minimum of 2 years post donation.*

References

- <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>

Contact Information

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Partnering to **SAVE & HEAL LIVES**

Register as an organ, eye & tissue donor today!

www.nvdonor.org | [#DonateLife](https://twitter.com/DonateLife)

5. OVERVIEW OF PRIOR AND NEW RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED AND NEXT STEPS

Chair Kerns

Prior Recommendations

For this agenda item, please refer to:

- “Response 2023 Recommendations and Legislation Addressed” handout; and
- Pages 62-69 of the “Annual Report of the Statewide Substance Use Response Working Group (SURG) 2023” for a status update on 2022 recommendations

It was noted at the March 25, 2024 Response Subcommittee Meeting that the following legislative component had not been addressed in any of the 2023 recommendations:

- *(l) Evaluate current systems for sharing information between agencies regarding the trafficking and distribution of legal and illegal substances which are associated with substance use disorders, including, without limitation, heroin, other synthetic and non-synthetic opioids, and stimulants.*

LAPPA Next Steps Based on Survey & Discussion at April 10, 2024 SURG Meeting

The LAPPA 2023 State of the States Legislative Roadmap for Reducing Overdose Deaths and Increasing Access to Treatment identifies four strategies that Nevada has not adopted. This included the following which have been assigned to the Response Subcommittee for review:

- Require state and local correctional settings to provide withdrawal management services
 - Members supported this with a note that some jurisdictions do support withdrawal management in correctional settings; another member thought there was proposed legislation in the last session. One member noted agreement as long as it does not come in the form of an unfunded mandate.
- Support information sharing with overdose fatality review teams
 - Members agreed with this.
 - The state OD2A group did a [report](#) on this and described their recommendations/successes/barriers.

Recommendations Received and Next Steps

- **Recommendation #1:** Recommend a BDR to have recidivism defined in NRS
- **Submitted by:** Dr. Terry Kerns
- **Justification:** Recidivism is the act of committing another crime or coming into conflict with the criminal justice system (CJS) again. It is an important measure of the effectiveness of CJS efforts to promote rehabilitation, reintegration, and public safety. Recidivism rates are not available at a national level 1 since there is no national consensus on the operational definition of recidivism and there are significant variations in how recidivism is defined and counted (e.g., re-contact, re-arrest, re-incarceration, or reconviction) in different jurisdictions. For this reason, comparisons between studies and jurisdictions should not be made. (Recidivism in Criminal Justice, <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/jf-pf/2020/aug01.html>). The Nevada Department of Corrections defines recidivism as a return to incarceration with NDOC within 3 years of an offender's date of release.
- **Research link(s):** Recidivism in the 2019 Release Cohort, Nevada Department of Corrections. See also the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices letter.
- **Possible presenters:** Cherylyn Rahr-Woods cherylyn@nrhp.org Northern Behavioral Health Coordinator and Katie Synder (contractor on COSSUP grant) ksnyder@justiceresearch.org

6. PLANNING FOR 2024 RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Chair Kerns

Planning for 2024 Response Subcommittee Meetings

Current Presenter/Topic Suggestions for Upcoming Meetings:

- Opioid Technical Assistance Center (June):
 - Mobile Response
 - Good Samaritan Law
- Defining Recidivism (June)
- Oregon Drug Decriminalization—Full SURG (July)
- Workforce (August)
- Wastewater Treatment Epidemiology (August)
- Clark County Opioid Task Force (September/October)

Response Meeting Dates:

- June 4, August 6, September 3, November 5 from 11:00 am - 12:30pm

7. DISCUSS REPORT OUT FOR JULY 10 SURG MEETING

Vice Chair Holmes

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

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9. ADJOURNMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, RESOURCES & UPDATES AVAILABLE AT:

[https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance
Use_Response_Working_Group_\(SURG\)/](https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance_Use_Response_Working_Group_(SURG)/)



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